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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/085,370	02/28/2002	Bari W. Brown	LEAR 0925 PUS	6558
34007	7590	10/06/2004	EXAMINER	
BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C. / LEAR CORPORATION 1000 TOWN CENTER TWENTY-SECOND FLOOR SOUTHFIELD, MI 48075-1238			PURVIS, SUE A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1734	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/085,370

Applicant(s)

BROWN, BARI W.

Examiner

Sue A. Purvis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5, 7, 13, 15, 17 and 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 8-12, 14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date, _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8 Apr 02, 15 Aug 03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 5, 7, 13, 15, 17, and 18 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 16 July 2004.
2. The traversal is on the grounds that the restriction does not seem to be necessary and that the restriction requirement is burdensome, not only to the office but also to the applicant and the public. This is not found persuasive because the restriction was made because the different inventions have different searches and thus to examine both inventions would require additional work for the examiner.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beltramo (GB 2,082,961) in view of van der Kooy (US Patent No. 5,037,690).

Beltramo discloses a method of making a composite vehicle panel including a manufacturing a skin in a vacuum-forming mold (10) and then transferring the skin to a RIM mold (12). A polyurethane mix is injected into the mold and reaction injection molding is used to form the final panel. It is known in the art the polyurethane is an isocyanate and resin mix. Beltramo discloses having a reinforcing layer comprising glass fibers in the form of a mat or cloth. However, Beltramo does not disclose using natural fibers.

van der Kooy discloses using natural fibers as a reinforcement material along with a polyurethane mixture. Furthermore, van der Kooy is drawn to a making a door panel of an automobile. (Col. 1, lines 22-38; Col. 2, lines 8-17.)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use natural fibers in the process of Beltramo in place of the glass fibers because van der Kooy teaches that providing shaped product which is environmentally friendly and can be processed. It is known by the teachings in van der Kooy that the properties of the natural-fiber material and of the plastics material, can lead to material combinations having particular properties.

Regarding claims 2 and 10, van der Kooy discloses using jute or flax. (See Abstract.)

Regarding claims 3 and 11, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to trim the skin in Beltramo in view of van der Kooy before placing the natural fibers and polyurethane mix onto the skin if the skin were too big. Trimming the skin before it is made into a panel is within the purview of the artisan because the skin may be too big for the RIM mold and thus need to be trimmed to fit.

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Regarding claims 4 and 12, Beltramo discloses trimming the final product thus the trimming step occurs after the polymerization.

Regarding claims 6 and 14, Beltramo discloses providing the reinforcing layer in the form of a mat. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the natural fibers in the form of a mat, because that is how Beltramo provides the glass fiber reinforcing layer.

Regarding claims 8 and 16, Beltramo discloses applying the mat then the polyurethane mix.

Regarding claim 9, this process is essentially the same as the process in claim 1, because in claim 1 the isocyanate and resin mixture is also polymerized in the presence of the skin and natural fiber.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sue A. Purvis whose telephone number is (571) 272-1236. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9am to 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher A. Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sue A. Purvis
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1734

SP
September 22, 2004